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SECOND MEETING OF THE AVIATION SECURITY AND FACILITATION REGIONAL GROUP
(AVSEC/FAL/RG/2)

Antigua and Barbuda, 16 to 18 May 2012

AVSEC/FAL/RG/2 — WP/17
09/04/12

Agenda Item 7: Training, Cooperation and Assistance
7.3 Coordination and Cooperation mechanisms

COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES

(Presented by the ICAO Secretariat)

SUMMARY

Pursuant to the Declaration on Aviation Security of the ICAO 37th Session of the Assembly to provide technical assistance to States in need, including funding, capacity building and technology transfer to effectively address security threats to civil aviation, in cooperation with other States, international organizations and industry partners, it is necessary to have a mechanism to coordinate the assistance that States receive from other States and International Organizations, in order to avoid duplication and optimize resources to improve the national and consequently the regional aviation security system.

References:

- Declaration on Aviation Security, 37th Session of the Assembly, October 2010
- AVSEC/FAL/RG/1 Conclusion 1/6

Strategic Objectives

This working paper is related to ICAO Strategic Objective B.

1. Introduction

1.1 During the AVSEC/FAL/RG/1 Meeting, the Secretariat presented an update on the developments and progress in the ICAO Implementation Support and Development – Security Programme (ISD-SEC) and, in particular, assistance and training provided, and a new ICAO strategy on assistance and capacity-building. The Meeting highlighted the need for coordination of assistance activities between the States, International Organizations and other entities providing assistance, including ICAO, LACAC, OAS/CICTE, IDB, Transport Canada and the US TSA, in order to reduce duplication in the provision of assistance to the minimum extent possible. The Meeting therefore adopted the following conclusion:

“Conclusion 1/6 Coordination between Organizations providing AVSEC Assistance to States

Organizations and development agencies providing AVSEC assistance to States are urged to improve coordination to avoid the duplication of assistance provided and thereby ensure an efficient use of resources to achieve the most effective provision of assistance for the benefit of States to meet their requirements.”

2. Discussion

2.1 ICAO assistance is provided to States through the Universal Aviation Security Audit Programme (USAP), the Implementation Support and Development – Security (ISD-SEC) Programme, the Technical Cooperation Bureau (TCB), and the Regional Offices.

2.2 Since January 2008 the USAP has been conducting a second cycle of audits with the objective of promoting global aviation security by identifying deficiencies in each State’s aviation security oversight system and providing recommendations for their resolution. Following audit missions, States are required to prepare corrective action plans to address the findings; however they are also invited to request specific assistance, if needed.

2.3 The objective of the ISD-SEC Programme is to assist States in achieving compliance with aviation security-related SARPs. In order to attain this objective, ICAO developed and implemented an Aviation Security Assistance Strategy to ensure a more cohesive and coordinated ICAO-wide approach to assistance and capacity building in aviation security which is presented in WP/16 of this Meeting.

2.4 The Technical Cooperation Bureau provides assistance for larger scale aviation security projects in accordance with a Management Service Agreements (MSA) or a Civil Aviation Purchasing Service (CAPS). These projects often include the recruitment of experts by ICAO for assistance and the procurement of security equipment. Regional Offices also conduct on-site visits and provide guidance on specific concerns in order to assist States in improving their national aviation security system.

2.5 Other entities providing assistance include:

- a) the Inter American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States (OAS) which provides assistance through the coordination of on-site training, and the provision of fellowships to facilitate participation in ICAO ASTC training activities as well as other training activities;
- b) the Inter-American Development Bank, which provides funding for direct assistance and training; including provision of equipment;
- c) the Transportation Security Administration of the United States, which provides direct assistance, training and funding for assistance projects;
- d) the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Transport Canada and Canada Border Services Agency, which provide direct assistance, training and funding for assistance projects; and
- e) other States providing assistance on a bilateral or multilateral basis, and through the provision of subject matter experts for ICAO projects.

2.6 As established by the Declaration on Aviation Security of the 37th Session of the Assembly, ICAO urges its Member States to: improve Member States' ability to correct deficiencies identified under the Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP); provide technical assistance to States in need; promote the increased use of cooperation mechanisms; and share best practices and information in a range of key areas.

2.7 While some assistance activities are derived from proactive offerings of assistance, the majority of assistance activities are a direct result of States that have identified a specific assistance need soliciting assistance from the various sources mentioned above, often simultaneously.

3. Conclusion

3.1 In order to reinforce the coordination of the above mentioned means of assistance, as established in the AVSEC/FAL/RG/1 Conclusion 1/6, it is important to consolidate and coordinate the cooperation under a regional mechanism to avoid duplication and to ensure the efficient use of resources and therefore to achieve the most effective provision of assistance.

3.2 There are two principal avenues available for collecting assistance related information, the States and Organizations providing assistance, and the States and entities receiving assistance. Considering the possible difficulty of a donor State or Organization in sharing third party information about the assistance it is providing, and the fact that donors would only be ready to share information once an agreement to provide assistance has been reached, it may be more practical to approach the consolidation of information related to assistance from the side of those States and entities that are requesting assistance. Such a mechanism would provide an avenue whereby States and entities requiring assistance could enter their needs into a restricted database, thus providing a single location where assistance needs are identified and fulfilled. A third option is to collect the information for both sources.

3.3 At the request of a group of States, ICAO convened an Ad Hoc Group on Partnership in Aviation Security Capacity Building to exchange information regarding current assistance activities and determine a collective approach to aviation security assistance and capacity-building. At the request of this group, ICAO established an Implementation Support and Development Assistance List (ISDAL) that collects information on global assistance projects for Aviation Security. ICAO provides the Secretariat for this task for use by the members of the group.

3.4 The AVSEC/FAL/RG Secretariat, with the support of member States, can develop and administer a data base using a Microsoft Excel or Access application. Information on assistance requests could be entered in this portal or data base; and the access application will be provided to States AVSEC Point of Contacts only. In order to respect the confidentiality of donor States/International Organizations, a different level of access could be programmed and provided accordingly.

4. Suggested Action

4.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) consider the proposal to have a database for the coordination of AVSEC assistance in the NAM/CAR/SAM Regions to avoid duplication of efforts;
- b) encourage Member States and International Organizations to inform ICAO/LACAC AVSEC/FAL/RG Secretariat on any assistance provided to any State; and
- c) encourage Member States to inform ICAO/LACAC AVSEC/FAL/RG Secretary on any assistance needed, requested or received from any of the above mentioned entities.